

RELEASED PER P.L-102-526(JFK ACT)
NARA 19 DATE 10-27-08

AIR

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DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE

PRIORITY

(Security Classification)

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM: Embassy MOSCOW

234

DESP. NO.

November 2, 1959

TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

REF: Ourtel 1304, October 31, 1959

EXHIBIT 5 (File 294 k)

ACTION	DEPT.
For Dept. <u>11-2</u>	IN <u>DIR: 5, SCAS, SCS-2, SY-2, I.C. 7, S/S-2, S/P-1 & 1, 1-2</u>
Use Only <u>REC'D</u>	OTHER <u>CIA-15</u>

SUBJECT: CITIZENSHIP: Lee Harvey OSWALD

Mr. Lee Harvey OSWALD, an American citizen, appeared at this Embassy October 31, 1959 and stated to Second Secretary Richard E. Snyder that he wishes to renounce his American citizenship and that he had applied to become a citizen of the Soviet Union. He presented to the interviewing officer his passport and the following signed, undated, handwritten statement, the original of which is retained by the Embassy (misspellings are as in original):

"I Lee Harey (cq) Oswald do hereby request that my present citizenship in the United States of America, be revoked.

"I have entered the Soviet Union for the express purpose of applying for citizenship in the Soviet Union, through the means of naturalization.

"My request for citizenship is now pending before the Surpream Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

"I take these steps for political reasons. My request for the revoking of my American citizenship is made only after the longest and most serious considerations.

"I affirm that my allegiance is to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics."

s/ Lee H. Oswald

Oswald is the bearer of Passport No. 1733242, issued September 10, 1959 (retained at the Embassy). The passport shows that he was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on October 18, 1939, and gives his occupation as "shipping export agent". Oswald gave his last address in the United States as that of his mother at 4936 Collinwood Street, Fort Worth, Texas. A telegram subsequently received at the Embassy for him indicates that a brother, Robert L. Oswald, resides at 7313 Davenport, Fort Worth, Texas. He stated that he was discharged from the U. S. Marine Corps on September 11, 1959. Highest grade achieved was corporal. Oswald evidently applied for his passport to the Agency at San Francisco while still in service. He stated that he had contemplated the action which he took for about 18 months. He departed from the United States through New York City of traveling to the Soviet Union through Northern Europe. He applied for a Soviet tourist visa in Helsinki on October 11.

Despatch no. 234

from US Embassy,

Moscow.

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From Moscow

that he applied for Soviet citizenship by letter to the Supreme Soviet on October 16 in Moscow. He stated that he did not mention his intent to remain in the Soviet Union to the Soviet Embassy in Helsinki at the time of his visa application.

Throughout the interview Oswald's manner was aggressive, arrogant, and uncooperative. He appeared to be competent. He insisted that he did not wish to waste time in discussion or answering questions concerning his "personal" affairs beyond what was directly related to divesting himself of his American citizenship. He was contemptuous of any efforts by the interviewing officer in his interest, made clear that he wanted no advice from the Embassy. He stated that he knew the provisions of U. S. law on loss of citizenship and declined to have them reviewed by the interviewing officer. In short he displayed all the airs of a new sophomore party-liner.

Oswald gave as the "principal reason" for his decision that "I am a marxist", but declined any further elaboration of his motives. However, other remarks bearing on his attitude were made during the interview. At one point he alluded to hardships endured by his mother as a "worker" and stated that he did not intend to have this happen to him. He also referred to himself several times as a "worker", but admitted that he had never held a civilian job, having entered the Marine Corps directly from junior year of high school. (He claimed to have completed high school while in service.) He stated that his service in Okinawa and elsewhere "gave me a chance to observe American imperialism." At another point he reacted sensitively when asked, in connection with his rank in the Marine Corps, whether he felt he should have had a higher grade.

Oswald categorically refused to discuss his family beyond stating that he was not married and that he has a mother in Texas. He had obliterated the address written on the inside cover of his passport and steadfastly refused to give any last home address until it was elicited by the "threat" that nothing could be done about his request to renounce his citizenship without this information. After giving the address noted above, he then confirmed that it was his mother's address. He would not say whether he had informed his mother and rebuffed any suggestion of concern for her.

Oswald offered the information that he had been a radar operator in the Marine Corps and that he had voluntarily stated to unnamed Soviet officials that as a Soviet citizen he would make known to them such information concerning the Marine Corps and his speciality as he possessed. He intimated that he might know something of special interest.

Oswald is presently residing in non-tourist status at the Metropole Hotel in Moscow awaiting the Soviet response to his application for citizenship. As his Soviet visa and militia registration expired on October 23, 1959, and have not been renewed, he is patently in a technically illegal residence status with the tacit consent of the Soviet authorities.

For what significance it may have, the foregoing was also the pattern in the Nicholas PETRULLI case (our Despatch 111, September 11, 1959). Having

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evidently concluded, after allowing Petrulli to languish "illegally" in a local hotel for a month, that he was no asset as a Soviet citizen, the Soviets suddenly invited him to depart, pointing out that he had "overstayed" his visa.

In view of the Petrulli case and other considerations, the Embassy proposes to delay action on Oswald's request to execute an oath of renunciation to the extent dictated by developments and subject to the Department's advice.

Edward L. Freers
Edward L. Freers
Charge d'Affaires, ad interim

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EXHIBIT 6 (File 294 k)

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

11/17

35

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Action

PPT

Info

L

H

INR

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P

CU

SEWC

USIA

SCS

SY

DCL

IRC

CIA

OSD

NAVY

FROM: MOSCOW

TO: Secretary of State

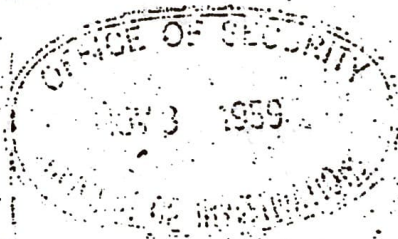
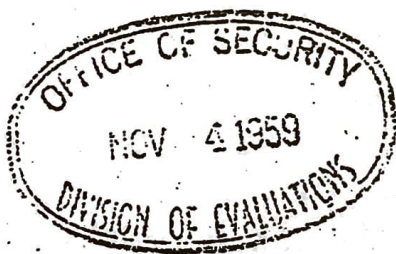
NO: 1304, OCTOBER 31, 1 P.M.

FOR PO

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, UNMARRIED AGE 20 PP 1733242- ISSUED
SEPT 10, 1959 APPEARED AT EMB TODAY TO RENOUNCE AMERICAN
CITIZENSHIP, STATED APPLIED IN MOSCOW FOR SOVIET CITIZENSHIP
FOLLOWING ENTRY USSR FROM HELSINKI OCT 15. MOTHER'S
ADDRESS AND HIS LAST ADDRESS US 4936 COLLINWOOD ST.,
FORT WORTH TEXAS. SAYS ACTION CONTEMPLATED LAST TWO
YEARS. MAIN REASON "I AM MARXIST". ATTITUDE ARROGANT
AGGRESSIVE. RECENTLY DISCHARGED MARINE CORPS. SAYS HAS
OFFERED SOVIETS ANY INFORMATION HE HAS ACQUIRED AS
ENLISTED RADAR OPERATOR.

IN VIEW PETRULLI CASE WE PROPOSE DELAY EXECUTING RENUNCIATION
UNTIL SOVIET ACTION KNOWN OR DEPT ADVISES. DESPATCH
FOLLOWS. PRESS INFORMED.

JR



FREERS

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#262 622

The Case Officer then started discussing the case of a Bulgarian, GIORGIEV, who was arrested by the Bulgarians in Moscow in 1963. SUBJECT obtained his information on this case from SIHERAPIN and Alexander PAPOVICH in 1963.

SUBJECT said GIORGIEV was invited to Moscow in 1963 at the suggestion of the Bulgarian MVD. He was settled in the Metropole Hotel and kept under TV surveillance. While he was in Moscow his rooms in Bulgaria were searched and evidence was found (radio) which was sufficient for the Deputy Chief of the Bulgarian MVD to go to Moscow, arrest him and return him to Bulgaria for questioning and trial or court martial.

SUBJECT went to Bulgaria in 1961 to help them on American cases. He stated there was no suspicion of GIORGIEV at that time. GIORGIEV had worked in the United States and was believed to have been recruited at that time.

The Bulgarians, on confronting GIORGIEV in the Metropole Hotel, said, "George DUVAL, you're under arrest".

At this point the interview ended and SUBJECT asked the Case Officer to congratulate the boys and wish them all a good holiday for him. He did this when the Case Officer said he did not think he would be back on 3 July.

Friday, 3 July 1964 - The Case Officer wanted to discuss the KGB involvement in the OSWALD case.

SUBJECT said he did not know that OSWALD went to Moscow from Helsinki but that OSWALD's visa application was processed in the normal manner and KGB had a copy of the visa application. Russian Embassies, since 1960, have authority to issue visas in three to five days after application.

OSWALD applied orally, and later in writing, for Soviet citizenship. A copy of the written request went to KGB. A copy of this request was sent to the Supreme Soviet after OSWALD slashed his wrists.

KGB studied reports on OSWALD prepared by Case Officer KRIZNOF and decided OSWALD was not normal so he was of no interest to KGB and was not considered desirable for Soviet citizenship. His file was sent to Minsk because he was to live and work in Minsk.

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#262 622

The American Embassy was not informed of his suicide attempt because he was going to leave the country and he was not an important person.

While OSWALD was in Minsk he received a stipend from the Red Cross.

KGB had information on Marina OSWALD only after she announced her intention to marry him. A record check, neighborhood, and employment check on her showed that she was a simple, normal, not clever person, and she was not in the Young Communist League because she did not pay her dues. Some investigative reports said she was stupid.

KGB did not consider using her in any capacity.

She has an uncle who is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Minsk militia.

She must be illegitimate because she does not use or know her father's name.

The only surveillance ever put on OSWALD was an agent and there was never any on Marina.

After their marriage her pay was increased to impress the foreigner she married.

She was not asked to stay in Russia after marriage because he was to leave and Russians believe a husband and wife should be together (unless one is a high level person).

Neither of the OSWALDs got any briefing or instructions before leaving Moscow.

In addition to KRUZNOF and the SUBJECT, DUBAS and MUSHKOV were the KGB Agents in Moscow who knew of the OSWALD case before the assassination. A Department Chief, JOMOKOV, and five other KGB Case Officers knew of the case after the assassination.

KGB considered OSWALD an American citizen because he had been denied Soviet citizenship.

KGB did not know any of OSWALD's personal contacts in Russia.

Some of the Intourist people OSWALD dealt with were KGB Agents or contacts.

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#262 622

OSWALD's case was not the same as other Americans in Russia because he was considered not normal and he was not considered a defector as were MARTIN and MITCHELL.

SUBJECT heard that OSWALD applied in Mexico for return to Russia. Word went from Mexico to the First Main Directorate to the Second Main Directorate. Second Main Directorate told First Main Directorate that he had tried suicide in Russia, married a Soviet citizen, departed Russia and was considered not normal so the request should be rejected.

SUBJECT was then shown some photographs and he said he had seen a picture of Marina OSWALD in a magazine.

A long list of names was read and shown to SUBJECT but he failed to identify any of them. Many of the names were of people in Minsk.

JJB:jms

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